ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for capturing and archiving medical images and accompanying data from various sources, and making the data available to users. The image data may be captured using scanners, digital cameras, digital cameras attached to microscopes, and/or other imaging equipment. Where possible, the system interfaces directly with manufacturers' imaging equipment via a communications port to capture the images and accompanying data. The system comprises a distributed database schema to integrate heterogeneous, multiple, encapsulated databases throughout the enterprise. The system uses computer and healthcare industry standards for hardware and software to reduce dependencies on closed-end proprietary medical systems, to enable integration among departments, and to provide a high degree of distribution transparency for users. Queries are based upon a user interface that invokes both parameterized options and parsing using elements of both relational algebra and relational calculus. The system displays domain knowledge in the appropriate manner for each medical specialty.